

***TIPPECANOE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 13, 2009***

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Advisory Council members present were: Chairman Garry Smith, John Withers, Commissioner David Byers, Mike Francis, Jimmy Kesterson, Carol Shelby, and Nathan Miller. Also present were Director Mark Kirby and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

Carol Shelby moved to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2008, meeting, second by John Withers.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The siren project is complete; Director Kirby explained the final product will allow TEMA to prioritize the maintenance and replacement of sirens in the future.
- Radio re-banding is finished for the district. All radios are reprogrammed and a few radios were replaced.
- TEMA recently received \$103,000 in grant funds for purchase of additional radios. This final grant will supply all active first responders in the district with a radio.
- The Red Cross, TEAS, police, fire, and others participated in the Safety Fair. The number of visitors doubled this year from last; Director Kirby expects 2009 will have a larger turnout than 2008.
- TEMA and HAZMAT participated in the Anthrax exercise held at the main post office. Director Kirby reported this was a great opportunity to run through the exercise in the event of an actual emergency.
- The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee concluded in November. Director Kirby is thrilled with the outcome and proud of the collaboration between the hospitals. The committee addressed problematic issues regarding ambulance service for both hospitals in the new locations. Two of the five ambulances purchased by the county are in service; the other three should arrive soon.
- The Township Trustees heard TEAS would install Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) systems in the new ambulances and decided to fund the entire project. The total amount of the project will be approximately \$32,000.
- The Medical Reserve Corps started by the Health Department comprised of citizens in the medical field has been established to address community health related emergencies. Director Kirby stated TEMA will work closely with this group in the future. He added the corps is completely funded by grants.
- TEMA received two un-commissioned police cars from the City of Lafayette. Director Kirby requested these vehicles for volunteers to help defray the cost for volunteers and ensure safety with emergency lighting.
- Indiana Department of Health has issued a team to work with each District Task Force. The mission is not clear at this time, but the team will most likely be utilized for drills, exercises and other TEMA events.
- The commissioners have approved the Emergency Transportation Ordinance. Director Kirby is working with local officials to implement the ordinance. The ordinance will not only benefit the county during inclement weather, it will also be used for notifying the public of hazardous travel (i.e., flooding of North River Road).

- Eli Lilly has donated “Bunker Gear” for members of the HAZMAT Team. Several sets were acquired to equip HAZMAT volunteers.

Anticipated in 2009

- Director Kirby anticipates issuing Certified Credentials to all first-responders in the district. Cards issued will be “Smart Cards” with the technology to identify first responders and their certifications on any emergency scene.
- Both the District Planning Oversight Committee (DPOC) and the District Planning Committee (DPC) have been created to oversee Emergency Management Operations. The DPOC made up of elected officials in each county was designed to be an oversight for district functions. The DPC made up of the EMA Directors, an appointee by the County Commissioners, and an appointee by the Mayor of the largest city or town of each county will manage grants and facilitate district exercises.
- The Task Force is expecting \$110,000 in grant funds for collaboration of a disaster team to respond to state emergencies. A truck and trailer are being purchased with the funds to hold the equipment needed to sustain the team for 72-hours in the field.
- The commissioners continue to search for a new Emergency Management facility. Director Kirby confirmed it is a high priority for TEMA to preserve the quality of the current equipment. Commissioner Byers stated the commissioners are aggressively searching for a location.
- The Emergency Operations Center Earthquake Exercise will be a district-wide to test communication capabilities. The exercise is intended to test all equipment and emergency capabilities to ensure a smooth response if needed.
- The District Communication Grant will allow the purchase radio equipment including 2-AC1000M systems for field use. The system allows different radio systems to talk to each other in the field.
- Volunteer meetings will quarterly in 2009 instead of monthly. This will allow the volunteers to meet in between quarters to organize and operate as their own entity.

Director Kirby provided a copy of the 2008 and 2009 Budget. He reported TEMA has a slight decrease due to a misunderstanding in the budget process. Funds were encumbered in 2006 for 2007 which weren’t spent and in the 2009 budget TEMA was denied those funds. The Maintenance line was increased by \$10,000 for 2009.

HAZMAT

Assistant Director Tim Batta reported HAZMAT has been asked to assist a local business owner with possible hazardous waste disposal. They will perform testing on the materials so that it may be disposed of properly.

Director Kirby reported there are several outstanding bills from past years. The bills for HAZMAT assistance have not been paid by the entities that requested help. The bills will be sent to the county attorney.

NEW BUSINESS

Garry Smith said he is grateful and appreciative of the undertaking and management of TEMA by Director Kirby and his staff.

Commissioner Byers moved to adjourn.